

shrubby and up the few scattered saplings. The parent bird had emerged two or three feet from the nest and was about to spring into the air before I realized that its nest was near. The eggs were uniformly slightly incubated and are well up to the normal size of eggs of this bird, measuring in inches 2.89 x 1.90, 2.82 x 1.86, and 2.57 x 1.90. The two larger eggs are remarkably alike in arrangement of their pigmentation, which is quite evenly dispersed over their surfaces. On the smaller egg the splotches are consolidated in a pronounced wreath at the larger end. I am informed that the egg collection in the United States National Museum does not contain a set of three eggs of this species.—ROBERT W. WILLIAMS, *Washington, D. C.*

The Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) at Cape May, N. J.

—Continued intensive study of the bird life of a favorably situated locality will result in the recording of an astonishing number of rare species or better, perhaps, species which have strayed from their proper habitat. The discoveries of Arthur T. Wayne at Mount Pleasant, S. C., constitute a case in point.

Beginning with the season of 1920 the writer with the aid of the members of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club has made an intensive study of the avifauna of Cape May, N. J., a region pretty well known, in a general way, from previous observations but never studied carefully. The results have been most interesting and such species as the Gray and Arkansas Kingbirds, Louisiana Heron, Wood Ibis, Yellow-throated Warbler, etc., have been added to the list of Cape May birds. The location, at the southern extremity of a narrow peninsula with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and Delaware Bay on the other, is probably on the path of two lines of flight for migrating birds and this as well as its latitude, about opposite Washington, D. C., doubtless make it an excellent spot for the occurrence of straggling individuals of southern species.

That the possibilities of the locality are not exhausted was evidenced on May 30, 1924, when members of the D. V. O. C., on their annual field trip to the region, observed a full plumaged adult Mississippi Kite. The writer and Mr. Julian K. Potter caught sight of the bird simultaneously as it sailed over an orchard about two miles north of Cape May City and close to the Bay shore. We at once realized that it was something with which we were entirely unfamiliar. At a distance, when we could see only the edge of the wings, its action, as it faced the strong north-west wind that had been blowing all day, recalled the efforts of a Laughing Gull under similar circumstances but as it approached us we saw immediately that we had to do with a bird of prey and one of different plumage from any with which we were familiar. The peculiar habit of tilting up so that the entire upper surface was brought into view attracted our attention and brought into prominence the jet black square cut tail which stood out in contrast to the rest of the plumage. The pale gray head, which appeared almost white as the sunlight struck it, was also conspicuous and the bicolored wings, the anterior portion

of which was dark slate and the posterior border (exposed secondaries) pale gray, in strong contrast.

For half an hour we watched the bird's remarkable aërial performance and in all this time while rising and falling through the air always facing the wind it did not pass beyond the limits of a few acres of open farm land. It drew in its wings slightly or extended them sometimes simultaneously, sometimes only one, in its efforts to "trim sails" and maintain its balance in the gale and now and then the black fan-shaped tail was thrown over to one side or the other for the same purpose. While it humped its shoulders in regulating its wings and occasionally gave very slight strokes of about a quarter of the full arc it never, while we watched it, gave a full wing beat. Eventually tilting and sailing and turning till its tail was nearly vertical, it disappeared over a piece of woodland to the north. When directly over us at an elevation of some sixty feet we could see every detail of its markings through the binoculars and the under parts were then observed to be plain light gray.

Unfortunately there was no means at hand of collecting the specimen but the fact that we had so many observers—twelve besides the writer, including such reliable students of the local fauna as J. K. Potter, W. L. Baily, J. A. Gillespie, etc., together with such a uninterrupted opportunity for observation and such an easily identifiable subject, induce us to publish the record, even though it be an addition to the fauna of the State and ought, according to Mr. Ludlow Griscom's excellent rules of procedure, to be fortified by a specimen.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*.

Another Goshawk's Nest in Massachusetts.—On April 18, 1924, I took three eggs and nest of the Goshawk (*A. atricapillus*) in Petersham, Worcester Co., Massachusetts. This 1924 nest was in the same general locality where the nest was found in April of last year, as I recorded in 'The Auk' for July, 1923. As last year, the nest was of enormous size, and was new throughout, without sign of either leaves or woods dirt. It was plentifully "feathered." The nest was beautifully made, largely of long green hemlock and pine twigs, and had a very shallow interior, with coniferous bark floor. It was placed on horizontal branches and against the tree trunk. It was 40 ft. from the ground (two-thirds the height of the tree) in a white pine a foot and a half in diameter. The three large pale blue eggs were considerably incubated.

This is the second note of the nesting of the Goshawk in Massachusetts, the first being my record of last year.—J. A. FARLEY, *52 Cedar St., Malden, Mass.*

Great Horned Owl at Englewood, New Jersey.—A bird of this species was seen on March 28, 1924. He was being pestered by Crows, when suddenly he lit upon a branch not far above our heads. Upon seeing us, he lifted up his horns. A few of my friends were with me at the time. This